



WEM Digest

Issues and Events for Wisconsin's Emergency Management

More storms and tornadoes hit Wisconsin

By Lori Getter
WEM Crisis Communications Officer

Deadly storms and tornadoes rolled across southern Wisconsin on June 23, killing one person and causing millions in damages.

The National Weather Service confirmed 16 tornadoes hit the state, impacting many communities including Warrens, Madison and Waupun. The tornadoes ranged in strength from F0 to F3.

One F3 tornado spun up near Markesan in Green Lake County causing extensive tree and building damage. One person was killed when the tornado demolished his home.



This F-1 tornado hit Madison, damaging homes, businesses and trees. It was one of 16 tornadoes that hit the state on June 23. Photo by Jay Bigalke and courtesy of the National Weather Service



Governor Doyle and Major General Al Wilkening view damage caused by tornadoes that hit southern Wisconsin on June 23.

Photo by Tim Donovan

Governor Doyle toured several of the damaged areas and immediately requested federal disaster relief. Within days, the Federal Emergency Management Agency added additional counties to the original federal disaster declaration bringing the total number of counties to 44.

In the original declaration, individuals and businesses located in Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Kenosha, Ozaukee and Winnebago Counties were eligible to apply to FEMA for disaster assistance.

Additional counties added on for individual assistance included Adams, Clark, Crawford, Dane, Grant, Green Lake, Jackson, Juneau, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Outagamie, Portage, Sauk, Vernon, and Waupaca

Counties. In addition, due to sporadic disaster damage, the contiguous counties of Brown, Calumet, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Green, Iowa, LaCrosse, Lafayette, Marathon, Racine, Richland, Rock, Shawano, Sheboygan, Taylor, Trempealeau, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waushara, and Wood were also included.

As of August 14, 7,043 people had registered with FEMA for federal disaster aid. Over \$10 million has been approved in grants for disaster housing and other needs from FEMA and in low interest loans from the Small Business Administration.

Disaster relief is also available to local governments in Adams, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant,

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Gleason bids farewell to WEM

This will be my 29th and last column as Administrator. I have always enjoyed this forum to discuss and heighten awareness of issues or events that I have felt to be important.

First, and foremost I am proud of the work that we have undertaken over the past five years. During my tenure, we have been challenged by the Y2K millennium rollover, five Presidential-declared disasters, 2000-2001 snow emergency, a number of declared states of emergency, as well as the aftermath of September 11.

I am proud of how the staff of Wisconsin Emergency Management dealt with these events. They demonstrated professionalism, earnestness and genuine concern for the welfare of those affected.

In addition, we have developed a strategic direction for our workforce, created a management team to improve communications and accountability and realigned the division to

balance the workload. We also continue to strengthen our relationships with county emergency management directors and other federal, state and local emergency response agencies.

Wisconsin Emergency Management staff also prepared the first-ever State Hazard Mitigation Plan. In addition, they continue to work with federal, state and local governments in flood-proofing or acquiring flood-prone structures. Their efforts were a proven success this spring as many properties that would have flooded with the record rainfall, had been acquired and demolished and the area is now open space.

WEM also has revised the State Emergency Operations Plan to include homeland security plans. In addition, we have participated in many training events and exercises to improve our readiness.

These accomplishments were in addition to the regular and important work of our division that ensures Wisconsin is ready and prepared for all facets of the emergency management cycle; preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

There are countless challenges that remain and I will miss being part of these efforts in the years ahead. I want to thank you for your support during my tenure. It has been a real privilege to serve as Administrator of Wisconsin Emergency Management.



Ed Gleason
Former WEM Administrator

I wish you all success in the years ahead. I do hope we cross paths down the road. Your work is vital and I admire your commitment and dedication to serving our citizens. Stay safe.

Ed Gleason resigned as Administrator from Wisconsin Emergency Management. He was appointed in October 1999. The staff of Wisconsin Emergency Management wishes Ed well in his future endeavors.

Upcoming Events

Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week
November 8-12, 2004

2005 Governor's Conference on Emergency Management
Lake Geneva
April 5-6, 2005

Wisconsin's Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week
April 18-22, 2005

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PO Box 7865
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Editor: Lori Getter
(608) 242-3239 or
e-mail: lori.getter@dma.state.wi.us

Providing comfort to victims during disasters

*By Shirley Connors
Rock County Emergency Management*

Educating members of the clergy about disaster response was the focus of a training held in Beloit this summer.

Beloit Police Chaplaincy Unit and Rock County Emergency Management conducted the training seminar entitled, "Disaster Response for Rock County Clergy" on June 15, 2004. Many local law enforcement, fire, and emergency response officials discussed topics that included an overview of emergency management, Incident Command System, Scene Safety, and Critical Incident Stress Management.

The class was not only designed to inform local clergy members about emergency management and other related programs, but also to stress the valuable services they provide during emergencies and disasters.

Clergy members not only help comfort victims and responders during a disaster but also provide many other essential services such as meals and shelter.

The seminar was well received. Representatives from area churches, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross attended the training. The Beloit Foundation and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided



Clergy members participated in a full-scale exercise in Rock County in August 2003. Photo by Shirley Connors

financial assistance for the class. Rock County plans to continue to encourage clergy to participate in training and exercises.



Saving Lives

More than 600 people representing nearly 70 state, federal and local agencies participated in the Operation Heartland Defense on August 8 in West Salem. The scenario involved a terrorist bomb that derailed a Canadian Pacific train. The train then crashed into ammonia tanks at a co-op supply store. Victims were taken to the fairgrounds and then transported by helicopter to the LaCrosse Regional Airport where a field hospital was set up by the Army's 452 Combat Support Unit.

Photo by Dan Wenborne

Back to the classroom

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay announces a new certificate program beginning this fall in Emergency Management, Planning and Administration.

Classes will be held in Green Bay. Topics such as budgeting, mitigation, planning, response and recovery from natural and man-made disasters will be covered.

This program is the only emergency management certificate in the State of Wisconsin that awards university credit to all professions. Students earn university upper division undergraduate or graduate credit.

The program is made up of five, three credit courses taught by experienced faculty and experts in the field. Students and instructors will meet three weekends in a semester (*Friday evening and all day Saturday*). This format provides students the opportunity to interact with other professionals with diverse work experiences.

For more information please call Kassie Van Remortel at (800) 892-2118 or e-mail at vanremok@uwgb.edu. Information is also available on the web at www.uwgb.edu/em.

Community Relations — Helping those in need

*By Jan Grunewald
WEM CR Coordinator*

Helping to make sure families that are impacted by severe storms, flooding and tornadoes receive help is the goal of Community Relations.

Community Relations (CR) is one of the functions implemented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) following a Presidential Disaster Declaration which provides financial disaster assistance for individuals and businesses. Wisconsin is unique in that it is the only state in the nation that takes an active partnership in the CR program.

Within days after receiving this summer's Presidential Disaster Declaration, officials with FEMA and Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) paired up and went to communities impacted by the flooding and storms. The teams went into neighborhoods to meet with disaster victims, distribute disaster-related

information and help facilitate effective delivery of needed services

Often times, the teams are there as families begin to pick up the pieces. It can be a very difficult situation as many people are suffering from their losses that were caused by the floodwaters or tornadoes. Some have inadequate or no insurance coverage and are worried about how they will be able to recover.

In addition, special needs situations may arise such as older citizens and minority groups needing additional help. CR field staff may contact other agencies such as volunteer groups to provide assistance such as helping remove debris or simply taking the time to explain how to apply for federal aid.

During the current Presidential Disaster Declaration, CR field staff visited with county emergency management directors from each of the affected counties. The county directors were able to provide the teams with information about what neighborhoods or areas were



Jan Grunewald of WEM and Sharon Sanders of FEMA coordinated the Community Relations function during this year's disaster declaration in Wisconsin for 44 counties.

impacted, any special needs and other concerns that might need to be addressed.

In addition, the teams met with other local officials and community based organizations. This created an atmosphere of cooperation which helped us to better assist those in need in a timely manner.



Community Relations Teams visited the Waupun area to meet with disaster victims following the June 23 tornadoes. Numerous homes were damaged by this twister. Photo by Dodge County Emergency Management.

WI Tornado Facts

Wisconsin averages 21 tornadoes a year and it is rare to have 16 tornadoes hit in a single day. The June 23, 2004 date ranks fourth in the number of tornadoes striking Wisconsin on a single day.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Tornadoes</u>
1	May 8, 1988	24
2	July 3, 1983	22
3	July 8, 1993	18
4	June 23, 2004	16
5	August 9, 1979	12
5	July 18, 1996	12

A county director's perspective on the 2004 storms

By Mark Fritsche
Dodge County Emergency Management

Dodge County, like many other counties, was hit hard by both flooding and severe storms. Being a fairly new director it was great to see how things all fall together in a disaster situation.

Dodge County was not only impacted by flooding as a result of the record rainfall in May and June but also parts of the county including Waupun were hit by tornadoes on June 23.

I believe that because of all the training and Homeland Security dollars, which was used to purchase a mobile command center and related equipment in Dodge County, that it has brought

emergency management to a new level.

I believe that we are now capable of stepping up to the plate. I feel that even though these dollars are allocated more towards terrorist incidents that the dual use of the equipment purchased with these dollars relating to natural disasters has us better prepared to handle issues and operate effectively in these situations.

We have become more of a professional and respected organization now versus how we were perceived in the past. This professionalism helps us with all levels of our jobs and only solidifies our abilities in times of disasters.



Governor Doyle thanked Dodge County Emergency Management Director Mark Fritsche for a job well done. The Governor met with disaster victims and toured some of the hardest hit areas following the June 23 tornadoes. Photo by Dodge County Emergency Management

Disaster From Page 1

Green Lake, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Marquette, Monroe, Ozaukee, Vernon and Winnebago Counties.

More than 380 local governments have applied for this aid which helps local governments recover their costs associated with damage to infrastructure, which includes dams, bridges, and roads.

Under the Public Assistance Program, applicants with eligible damage costs can receive grants that are 75% funded by FEMA and 12.5% funded by the State of Wisconsin with the remaining costs the applicant's share.

The state is also eligible for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The funding allocated for the program is based on a percentage of the total disaster costs. The grants will be used to implement cost-effective and long term mitigation projects.

Individual & Public Assistance -

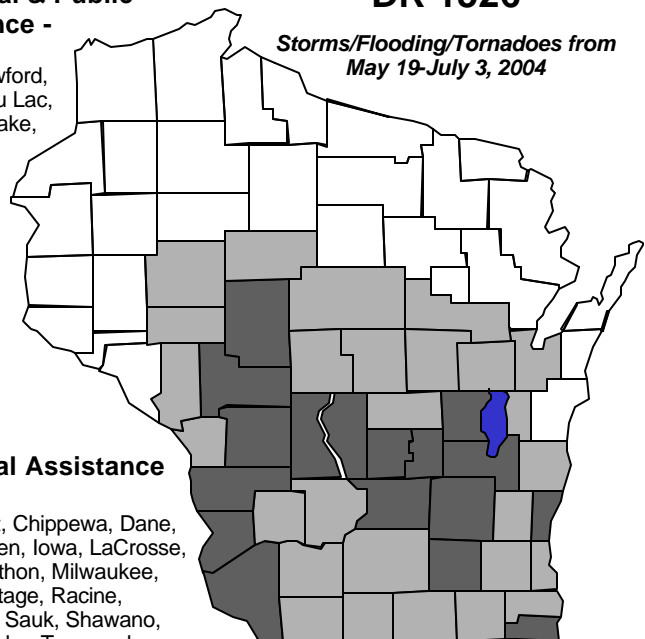
Adams, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green Lake, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Marquette, Monroe, Ozaukee, Vernon and Winnebago Counties

Individual Assistance Only -

Brown, Calumet, Chippewa, Dane, Eau Claire, Green, Iowa, LaCrosse, Lafayette, Marathon, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Sheboygan, Taylor, Trempealeau, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara and Wood Counties

DR 1526

Storms/Flooding/Tornadoes from May 19-July 3, 2004



Communications van ready to respond

*By Gary Kollman
St. Croix County Emergency
Communication's Director*

St. Croix County is one of several communities in the last few years that have purchased a state of the art mobile communications command post.

The motor home is equipped with nine VHF and one UHF mobile radios. Each radio is capable of 250 channels, which permits the van to communicate with all public safety agencies in the event of a disaster. The mobile radios are wired to a 10-channel radio console, which enables a dispatcher to monitor and/or transmit on any of the 10 channels selected at the mobile radios.



St. Croix County Emergency Communications Director Gary Kollman and Technical Lead Telecommunicator Steve Bahneman stand in front of the impressive communications van. Photo by Gary Kollman

A telephone electronic key system was added which permits the connection of up to 8 "hard" telephone lines and

accommodates the two permanently installed cellular telephones. The van is equipped with a PC which, when connected via telephone hard line, directly accesses the State of Wisconsin TIME System.

Regional News

WEM's Southwest Regional Director Larry Reed was appointed WEM Regional Director Supervisor.

Dawn Foss of WEM has accepted the position of EPCRA Compliance Specialist. She has been with WEM since 1999.

Chris Kruse is the new Dunn County Emergency Management Director. Chris will serve as emergency management director and county medical examiner. Welcome!

Jennifer Warmke was named ***Deputy Director of Dodge County Emergency Government.*** Jennifer is also a program assistant with the Dodge County Sheriff's Department.

Best wishes to ***Ray Pena of Dane County Emergency Management.***

Ray has accepted a position with the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C.



Welcome to WEM
Teri Galbraith and Jeanette Cheng have joined Wisconsin Emergency Management. Teri is the Program Assistant for the Disaster Recovery Section and Jeanette is the Program Assistant for the Southwest Regional Office.

The van is deployed whenever an incident is of sufficient magnitude to become a burden on our primary communication center. The interior design of the van provides for a communication center in the rear and a full blown command post setting near the front complete with telephones, desk top radio remotes, tables and white boards.

The van has been deployed many times over the past three years for events ranging from large concerts to serious public safety events which require dispatch of the County Emergency Response Unit (ERU) or commonly called a SWAT Team. Although we have been fortunate enough not to experience a major emergency or disaster yet, we feel our communications capability will be ready.

Vote for emergency management

By Cullen Peltier
WEMA President

Are you better off than you were four years ago? No, this isn't the beginning of a campaign speech. It is a legitimate question that we as emergency managers need to ask ourselves. Are our communities better prepared to handle a Weapons of Mass Destruction event than they were prior to 9-11?

I feel that I can answer this question with an emphatic, YES. We have taken the dollars that we have been allocated by the federal government and we have worked closely with the first responders in our communities to ensure the funds were allocated wisely.

We have taken advantage of the exercise funds and have conducted more exercises than we have in the past. The idea of conducting a full-scale exercise every four years seems outdated. We have raised the bar and are exercising on a more frequent basis.

Extensive training of our first responders has taken place at the local, state, and federal levels. We have trained our responders in bomb awareness, tactical operations in WMD environments, and Incident Command to name a few.

Above all, we have really made strides in working with all of our partners to guarantee that we would have a coordinated response to a WMD event. Our counterparts in public health, the hospitals, DHFS, the FBI, the Coast Guard, the ATF and others are no longer simply names and phone numbers that we call once a year to update our phone lists. These are people we are dealing with on a frequent basis.

The recent elevation of the threat level for the financial sectors in New York City, New Jersey, and Washington D.C., has once again raised public interest in our communities' preparedness efforts.

Although our preparedness efforts are in the forefront again, our work has been on-going. Across this state and across this country, as each day goes by, we are better prepared than we were in the past. Each day there is new equipment arriving that will assist us in deterring, detecting, responding to, and recovering from WMD attacks and each day there is training or exercising occurring at some level which helps bolster the readiness of our first responders.

It is very disheartening when I hear statements coming from elected officials or elsewhere questioning our preparedness and whether or

not the funding is getting down to the local level. Take a close look at the Hazmat Teams, Bomb Squads, Structural Collapse Teams, and SWAT Teams throughout the state and it will be obvious to anyone that they are better prepared than they were four years ago.

Please don't mistake me for saying that we are as prepared as we need to be. We cannot become complacent. We have to continually strive to be better. In 2008, when I once again ask myself if I feel our community is better prepared than it was four years ago, I sincerely hope that I am able to answer, "YES".



Truck or Trailer?

This summer in Racine, the Lake County, Illinois Heavy Rescue Team showed off their truck/container setup. The team decided to invest in the truck/container setup rather than the traditional cargo van or trailer to haul emergency response equipment. Photo by David Maack



Providing Help

Correctional inmates were used many times this summer to help fill sandbags or remove debris following the severe storms, flooding and tornadoes. Photo by Wayne Mixdorf

**Wisconsin Emergency Management
PO Box 7865
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53707-7865**

Unmet Disaster Needs

To help address many of the unmet needs of disaster victims, the Wisconsin Volunteer Agencies Active in Disasters (VOAD) has put together a program to provide additional assistance.

The Wisconsin Storms 2004 Unmet Needs Project is designed to help those who still have needs directly related to the storms and flood damage. This assistance ranges from replacing appliances that might have been destroyed in the flooding to volunteer assistance in removing debris.

Residents should call 1-866-211-3830 statewide or 211 in Milwaukee to request this additional aid.